

Message Text

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71

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0486

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PLENARY SESSION, JAN 17, 1974

1. THE VIENNA MBFR CONFERENCE MET IN ITS FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF 1974 ON JANUARY 17 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CANADA. THE CONFERENCE HEARD TWO STATEMENTS: A RATHER SHORT STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) AND A STATEMENT BY THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE (GRANDE). TEXTS OF BOTH PRESENTATIONS ARE BEING FORWARDED BY SEPTEL.

2. THE BRIEF AND ROUTINE SOVIET STATEMENT WAS A RATHER PERfunctORY RE-STATEMENT OF THE PACT NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL PRESENTED 8 NOVEMBER 1973, PERHAPS STANDARD FOR A POINT AT WHICH NEGOTIATIONS

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ARE BEING RESUMED. THE STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT REDUCTIONS

SHOULD BE BASED ON THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE; SHOULD INCLUDE GROUND, AIR, AND NUCLEAR FORCES; AND SHOULD INCLUDE FORCES FROM ALL ELEVEN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO THE NEGOTIATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY. NOTEWORTHY POINTS IN THE SOVIET STATEMENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE WORD "SIMULTANEOUS" WITH REGARD TO REDUCTIONS FOR FORCES OF THE ELEVEN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WAS REINTRODUCED AFTER OMISSION FROM THE 13 DECEMBER SOVIET STATEMENT, AND WAS REINFORCED BY THE WORDS "FROM THE VERY BEGINNING" IN THE ORAL PRESENTATION AS WELL AS THE MIMEOGRAPHED TEXT, WHERE THEY HAD BEEN ADDED IN PEN AND INK.

B. THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST HENCEFORTH MOVE AT A FASTER PACE AND AVOID "LONG ABSTRACT DISCUSSIONS".

C. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS OF 22 NOVEMBER 1973 CANNOT SERVE AS A BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING, WOULD INTRODUCE ELEMENTS OF DISTRUST, AND "IN THEIR PRESENT FORM" DO NOT ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UN-DIMINISHED SECURITY AGREED TO IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS. THE SOVIET STATEMENT REITERATED PREVIOUS INSISTENCE THAT THE "PRINCIPLES AGREED AT THE PREPARATORY TALKS" SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR ANY FUTURE AGREEMENT.

3. THE CANADIAN STATEMENT LED OFF WITH THE THEME THAT IT IS TIME TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THE STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT THE ADVANTAGES HELD BY THE WARSAW PACT IN CENTRAL EUROPE TODAY HAVE CREATED A POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE SECURITY SITUATION; THAT THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE WARSAW PACT WOULD PERPETUATE, IF NOT AGGRAVATE, THESE IMBALANCES; AND THAT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ALLIED APPROACH WOULD LEAD TO EQUALITY OF OUTCOMES AND THUS BE FAIR TO BOTH SIDES. THE STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE US/SOVIET REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE ALLIES ARE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A COMMON CEILING, AND THAT THE ALLIES ENVISAGED THAT A SUCCESSFUL FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT WOULD LEAD TO CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN A SECOND PHASE, IN WHICH GROUND FORCES OF OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE INCLUDED. THE STATEMENT EXPLAINED WHY THE ALLIES VIEWED THE PREPONDERANCE OF SOVIET TANKS AS DESTABILIZING. FINALLY, THE STATEMENT REAFFIRMED THE ALLIED VIEWS THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST ADDRESS STABILIZING MEASURES.

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SURES, AND, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, VERIFICATION AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION.

4. THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, AND WILL BE CHAIRED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA.HUMES

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